

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07358 210840Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 IO-13 /089 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2255

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7358

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, ET, IT, PEPR

SUBJECT: ITALIAN TRAVEL TO THE HORN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1613

1. MFA TOLD US APRIL 20 THAT SEPARATE ITALIAN DELEGATIONS WILL BE VISITING HORN DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS. FIRST, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, WILL BE LED BY MFA UNDERSECRETARY RADI AND WILL ARRIVE IN ADDIS ABABA ABOUT MAY 10. WHILE ITALIANS STILL VIEW MAJOR FOCUS OF MISSION TO BE PROBLEMS OF ITALIAN COMMUNITY IN ETHIOPIA, SWITCH FROM UNDER SECRETARY FOSCHI TO RADI DOES INDICATE GREATER POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF MISSION. FOSCHI WILL LEAD MISSION TO SOMALIA IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE. ITALIANS HAD HOPED VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE EARLIER, BUT PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S TRIP TO CHINA DELAYED PLANS. IN ANY CASE, SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER JAMA BARRE IS EXPECTED IN ROME FOR DISCUSSIONS APRIL 22.

2 AS TO PRO-SOMALI SLANT IN MFA REPORTED REFTEL, WE ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 07358 210840Z

NOT AWARE THAT SUCH BIAS EXISTS AT WORKING LEVEL. AT UPPER REACHES OF MFA, HOWEVER, THERE SEEMS TO BE GREATER TENDENCY TO TAKE SOMALI LEADERS AT THEIR WORD AND TO ACCEPT SOMALI ANALYSIS OF EVENTS IN HORN. WE HAVE ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION FOUND DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS WITHIN MFA AND ASCRIBE THIS TO LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AFRICA AT FARNESINA POLITICAL LEVEL. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN

THAT WORKING LEVEL HAS BETTER GRASP OF AFRICAN
SITUATION. GARDNER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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